

REGULAR SESSION RUSH COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MAY 23, 2011

The Rush County Board of Commissioners met in regular session, Monday, May 23, 2011 with Commissioners, Tom Barnes, Marvin Cole, Ken Masters, Deborah Adams, Auditor, and Leigh Morning, County Attorney in attendance.

Commissioner Tom Barnes called the meeting to order. Ken Masters made the motion to approve the May 6, 2011 minutes. Marvin Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

ARLINGTON SCHOOL

Bill Myers with Indiana Department of Environmental Management Response Team appeared requesting information regarding the demolition of Arlington school. His office received a complaint last week regarding two fuel tanks which have been dug up and left at the demolition site. One of the tanks has visible fuel left in it. He wants to make sure that everything is disposed of properly without contaminating the site. Mr. Myers would like to meet with the contractor.

Commissioner Barnes noted that this project is solely being handled by the Rush County School Board. Barnes instructed county attorney, Leigh Morning, to send a memo to the Rush County School Board with the information provided by Mr. Myers. Barnes will follow up on this matter to make sure the school board has been notified but the commissioners will not be involved.

AREA PLAN

Bill Todd, APC Director, asked if the commissioners had reviewed the WTH contract proposal for an editing license for E911. Commissioner Masters made a motion to sign the contract. Commissioner Cole seconded. Motion carried.

Todd also explained he has received information from Representative Randy Frye regarding wood burning furnaces. The height regulations could cause problems for homes located within a city or town. Commissioners Barnes has a different interpretation of the distances between houses. Todd will pull the information and reread the bill.

SHERIFF

Jeff Sherwood, Sheriff, reported thirty-eight (38) inmates incarcerated in the Rush County jail of which four (4) are sentenced.

Sherwood reminded the commissioners that the inspection is set for this Thursday at 9:00 or 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Masters will be there.

AUDITOR

Deborah Adams, Auditor, received approval of payroll for the period ending May 27, 2011 on a motion by Commissioner Cole, seconded by Commissioner Masters. Motion carried. By-Weekly claims submitted May 17, 2011 were approved on a motion by Commissioner Cole, seconded by Commissioner Masters. Motion carried.

John Saxon, interested citizen, asked if the format for the claims listing to be approved on the county website could be changed to include what the claim is for. Currently it only lists the payee name and claim amount. Auditor, Deborah Adams, commented that her office only advertises what is required by the State Board of Accounts. The claim vouchers are public record and anyone is welcome to come into the Auditor office to view the claims during public office hours.

Saxon asked if the checks are direct deposited or are they actual checks. Adams responded that actual checks were printed. Saxon also asked if Adams did not want to provide further detailed claim information on the county website. Adams again explained the claim procedure. She also stated that tax dollars are used to pay for advertising claims. Commissioner Barnes offered his Accounts Payable Voucher Listing for review at each commissioner meeting. Saxon asked if it is possible to scan the listing that Barnes has and place it on the website. Adams responded that she would check to see if this is possible with the software company. County attorney, Leigh Morning, said there are proprietary rights that would need to be checked into with our financial software vendor.

Adams gave the commissioners a list of Bi-annual claims for their review. They are usually paid in June once spring tax collections are posted.

In a final matter, Adams reminded the commissioners that she will be leaving today for a state board of accounts called meeting in Vevay and will return on Friday.

PATIENT ASSISTANCE

Deborah Adams presented a request from Lola Materna representing Patient Assistance.com. Their company offers prescription assistance to everyone. They would like to do a presentation of the program for the commissioners at a future meeting. In staying with past procedures, Commissioner Masters made the motion to allow Patient Assistance.com to do a presentation for the commissioners. Commissioner Cole seconded. Motion carried.

WELLS FARGO BANK

Deborah Adams presented the commissioners with a request from Wells Fargo Bank asking permission to place an information sheet about services available at the bank in each employee's paycheck. Commissioners Masters made the motion to allow the insert in payroll checks with the understanding that the commissioners are not endorsing any financial institution and other institutions would be allowed to do the same. Commissioner Cole seconded. Motion carried.

RALEIGH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Raleigh Fire Department presented a letter to the commissioners requesting \$48,000.00 for the 2012 budget. This is the same amount requested for 2011. Commissioner Barnes requested this information also be given to the Rush County Council.

NINESTAR COMMUNICATIONS

Leigh Morning, County Attorney, presented to the commissioners a contract with Ninestar Communications to provide internet service to the county with a bigger band width. Omnicity currently has the contract. They have not been notified of the counties intentions to switch providers. The cost per month for Ninestar Communications will be \$199.95. The county is currently paying \$550.00 per month. By switching providers, the band width will change from 5 to 30. Randy Herbert, I.T. Director, recommended to the commissioners that the county sign the contract with Ninestar Communications. Commissioner Masters made the motion to sign the contract with Ninestar. Commissioner Cole Seconded. Motion carried.

John Saxon asked what the additional band width would be used for. Herbert explained that our GIS system is being upgraded and offered to the public; therefore, it requires more. Also our financial software is requiring more.

PROPERTY ON PERKINS ST

Commissioner Barnes explained the county has a potential buyer for the (former Junior High School) property located on Perkins Street between 6th and 7th streets. Brownfield monies were used for the removal of the fuel tanks. The lot cleanup was not a local tax payer expense Barnes explained. Barnes reminded everyone again that the property in question has been on tax sale for several years. Currently, the county has a contract with Sunesis to store equipment and materials on the lot during the Main Street Project. There is a clause in the contract that says upon notice of the sale; the contractor will immediately restore the property to the condition of the property when the contract was signed.

County Attorney Leigh Morning advised the commissioners they could advertise that they would like to transfer the property to a non-profit organization 501C. This would eliminate the expense of two appraisals and other fees associated with the sale of the property. Commissioner Masters made the motion for the county attorney to start the proceedings with the advertising.

Bill Todd asked why not first try to sell the property to get it back on the tax rolls. Morning commented that would cost the county the two appraisals and selling fees. John Saxon asked could the cost not be passed on to the buyer. Morning stated no because the appraisals would have to be done prior to offering for sale.

Saxon asked the commissioners if they would investigate the cost of selling the property. Barnes explained the property has been offered for sale at different times. The ECDC had a potential developer but grant funding did not go through. Barnes said they would investigate the cost of selling the property. Morning stated the property would not appraise well in its current condition. It would need to be cleaned up before an appraisal could be done.

Barnes summed it up with saying that the commissioners would like to see a good neighbor in the area. The City of Rushville gave up a lot in the way of liens on the property.

Victoria Foley asked who the potential buyer was. The potential buyer is Phoenix Lodge No. 62, F. & A. M.

John Saxon stated that if this is a future revenue for the county, the commissioners should try to get the most from it.

Bill Todd stated the commissioners are disallowing someone to buy the property. He disagrees with Barnes that everything has been done. Todd shared that he feels that since going thru the Brownfield cleanup process no one has tried to find a potential buyer.

Commissioner Masters stated again that he had a motion on the floor to start the proceedings with the advertizing of the sale to a non- profit organization. Commissioner Cole seconded the motion. Motion carried.

FLOOD GATES

Commissioner Barnes readdressed the issue with placing flood gates across roads that flood regularly. He first stated his disappointment with the letter to the editor regarding this issue after it was addressed by the commissioners at the previous May 9, 2011 commissioner meeting.

Barnes reminded the audience that the commissioners did indicate that the committee would revisit their decision. The committee has met and decided to not place the flood gates. They were waiting on information from other counties and our insurance company before they make further recommendations on this issue.

Regarding the letter to the editor, Victoria Foley stated they must do what they feel is necessary in providing the public with information.

NATIONAL ABLE NETWORK

John Saxon reported that he had spoken with the surveyor regarding this program and only one name was submitted to him.

Motion to adjourn was received from Commissioner Cole. Commissioner Masters seconded the motion. Motion carried.

/s/Tom Barnes

Tom Barnes, Chairman

/s/Marvin Cole

Marvin Cole

/s/Ken Masters

Ken Masters

ATTEST:

/s/Deborah C. Adams

Deborah C. Adams, Auditor